

We claim:

1. A vertebral endplate chisel comprising:

- 5 a) a base having upper and lower portions, and proximal and distal portions,
b) an upper shaving portion extending distally from the upper base portion,
c) a lower shaving portion extending distally from the lower base portion,
the upper and lower shaving portions being disposed substantially parallel to each
other and each having a width, and

10 d) a guide integrally connected to and extending distally from the base and having a
width, the guide located between the shaving portions and having a width

wherein the width of the guide is no more than 95% of the width of the upper shaving
portion.

15 2. The chisel of claim 1 further comprising e) a handle located proximal to the proximal
portion of the base.

3. The chisel of claim 2 wherein the handle terminates in a substantially flat surface
which provides an impact surface.

4. The chisel of claim 2 wherein the handle comprises a distal perimeter and a proximal
perimeter, the distal perimeter being smaller than the proximal perimeter.

20 5. The chisel of claim 1 further comprising e) an extraction means located proximal to
the base and shaped so as to connect to an extraction device.

6. The chisel of claim 1 wherein the distal portion of the base comprises upper,
intermediate and lower portions, each having a width, wherein at least a distal portion
of each of the upper, intermediate and lower portions has a substantially equal width,
25 so that the distal end of the base comprises a substantially blocky portion.

7. The chisel of claim 1 wherein the base is shaped so as to provide debris pathways.

8. The chisel of claim 1 wherein the base comprises upper, intermediate and lower
portions, each having a width, and wherein the intermediate portion width is thinner
than the upper and lower portion widths, thereby providing flutes for removal of the
30 debris.

9. The chisel of claim 1 wherein the base comprises upper, intermediate and lower portions, wherein the upper and lower portions of the base do not contact at least a portion of the intermediate portion, so that debris pathways are formed therebetween.
10. The chisel of claim 9 wherein the intermediate portion comprises lateral portions, and the upper and lower portions are integrally connected to the lateral intermediate portions.
11. The chisel of claim 1 wherein the base has an integral I-beam-like shape comprising :
- i) an intermediate portion,
 - ii) an upper portion integrally connected to the intermediate portion,
 - iii) a lower portion integrally connected to the intermediate portion,
- wherein each of the intermediate, upper and lower portions has a width, and wherein the width of each of the upper and lower portions is greater than the width of the intermediate extending portion.
12. The chisel of claim 1 wherein the I-beam-like shape includes an I-beam shape.
13. The chisel of claim 1 wherein the I-beam-like shape includes a bulging I-beam shape.
14. The chisel of claim 1 wherein the I-beam-like shape includes a bow-tie shape.
15. The chisel of claim 1 wherein the upper shaving portion comprises an outer surface and an inner surface whose intersection forms a tip having an angle α suitable for shaving endplates.
16. The chisel of claim 15 wherein the angle α is between 20 and 40 degrees.
17. The chisel of claim 15 wherein the lower shaving portion comprises an outer surface and an inner surface whose intersection forms a tip having the same angle α as that of the upper shaving portion.
18. The chisel of claim 1 wherein the intermediate base portion narrows at the distal end thereof to form at least one secondary orthogonal shaver.
19. The chisel of claim 18 wherein the guide includes a neck extending distally from the intermediate portion of the base, and wherein the secondary orthogonal shavers are located on either side of and proximal to the neck.

- 30

34. The chisel of claim 27 wherein the head has a nipple-like distal portion.
35. The chisel of claim 27 wherein the head has a radial cross-section having a circular shape.
36. The chisel of claim 27 wherein the head has an axial cross section having a rectangular shape having a height and a width.
37. The chisel of claim 36 wherein the head has a height and a width, and is dimensioned so that the height is at least 5 times the width.
38. A vertebral endplate chisel comprising:
- a) a base having upper, lower and intermediate portions, and proximal and distal portions,
 - b) no more than two shaving portions for contouring vertebral endplates, comprising:
 - i) an upper shaving portion extending distally from the upper portion, and
 - ii) a lower shaving portion extending distally from the lower portion,the upper and lower shaving portions being disposed substantially parallel to each other to define a separation distance, each shaving portion having a vertically extending portion extending toward the opposite shaving portion for a distance of between 0% and 30% of the separation distance, and
 - c) a guide extending from the intermediate portion of the base.
39. The chisel of claim 38 wherein each vertically extending portion extends toward the opposite shaving portion for a distance of between 0% and 15% of the separation distance.
40. The chisel of claim 38 wherein each shaving portion has substantially no vertically extending portion
41. A vertebral endplate chisel comprising:
- a) a base having upper and lower portions, and proximal and distal portions,
 - b) an upper shaving portion extending distally from the upper portion,
 - c) a lower shaving portion extending distally from the lower portion,
- the upper and lower shaving portions being disposed substantially parallel to each other, and

d) a single guide disposed between the shaving portions and extending distal to the shaving portions, and having a height and a width, wherein the height of the single guide at least 5 times greater than its width.

42. A vertebral endplate chisel comprising:

- 5 a) a base having upper and lower portions extending distally therefrom,
- b) an upper shaving portion extending distally from the upper portion,
- c) a lower shaving portion extending distally from the lower portion,
- the upper and lower shaving portions being disposed substantially parallel to each other, and
- 10 d) a single guide disposed between the shaving portions and extending distal to the shaving portions, and having a height and a width, wherein the width of the single guide no more than 50% of the width of the upper and lower shaving portion.

43. A vertebral endplate chisel comprising:

- 15 a) a base having upper, intermediate and lower portions, and proximal and distal portions,
- b) an upper shaving portion extending distally from the upper portion,
- c) a lower shaving portion extending distally from the lower portion,
- the upper and lower shaving portions being disposed substantially parallel to each other,
- 20 wherein the intermediate base portion narrows at the distal end thereof to form secondary orthogonal shavers.

44. A vertebral endplate chisel comprising:

- a) a base having an integral I-beam-like shape comprising :
 - 25 i) an intermediate portion,
 - ii) an upper portion integrally connected to the intermediate portion, and
 - iii) a lower portion integrally connected to the intermediate portion,

wherein each of the intermediate, upper and lower portions has a width, and

wherein the width of each of the upper and lower portions is greater than the width of the intermediate extending portion.

FIG. 20